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KINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH
for the Year
1951

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	... ..	L. N. GOULD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Appointed 29th Jan., 1951).
Sanitary Inspector (Part-time)	... ..	R. P. MORRIS, A.R.S.I. (Tel: Kington 31).
Clerk — Area Medical Office	... ..	G. PROSSER.

Public Health Office: 4, CHURCH STREET, LEOMINSTER.

Telephone No.: Leominster 95.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951, which has been compiled in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 42/51.

During the year the incidence of notifiable disease remained very low indeed and the Urban District continued to show "immunity" to Poliomyelitis, no case having occurred during the past 21 years.

The existing sewage treatment plant is quite inadequate now and seriously overloaded. Consideration will have to be given to the provision of a modern disposal works capable of accommodating the Town's increased needs.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their interest and support and the Clerk, Mr. Fell, and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Morris, for their help and co-operation at all times.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

L. N. GOULD,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	... ..	857
Population	... ..	1,883
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951) according to the Rate Books	...	579
Rateable Value	... ..	£9,757
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	... ..	£39

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

				Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS	(Legitimate)	...	...	20	15	5
	(Illegitimate)	...	...	—	—	—
				—	—	—
	Total	...	...	20	15	5
STILL BIRTHS	(Legitimate)	...	...	2	—	2
	(Illegitimate)	...	...	—	—	—
				—	—	—
	Total	...	...	2	—	2

DEATHS	...	...	...	...	...	Total 26	Male 17	Female 9
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES						Nil	—	—
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE								
YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	...					Nil	—	—
(Illegitimate)	...					Nil	—	—

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1951.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	...	10.6
Birth rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	15.5
Still Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	...	1.06
Still Birth rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	0.36
Death rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	...	13.8
Death rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	12.5
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	Nil
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	29.6

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are available at the County Public Health Laboratory, County Hospital, Hereford.

The number of specimens sent by the Public Health Department to the laboratory for bacteriological examination from the Northern Districts of Herefordshire during the year is as follows:—

Examined for:—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Food Poisoning	2	486	555
Dysentery	67		
Diphtheria	2		
Scarlet Fever	53	110	165
Typhoid Carriers (Blood)	1	20	21
Miscellaneous Examinations (e.g. Eye Swabs, etc.)	2	16	18

CLINICS

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:—

Child Welfare Centre: In the Church Hall, Kington, on alternate Tuesdays at 2.0 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. R. P. Morris (Sanitary Inspector to the Council), for the following statement (Section C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS

WATER SUPPLY

The supply is obtained from the Crooked Well Spring and with some restrictions (such as washing of cars and watering of gardens) a regular supply was maintained during the whole of the year. During the month of September and a portion of October the spring was producing just sufficient for the demand.

The number of samples taken during the year from the spring direct before chlorination showed an excellent quality, the count of Coliform Bacilli being NIL. The water is constantly chlorinated. The total number of samples taken of the Town water supply was 15. Five samples were taken from Kingswood Hall — a new supply for the use of Kingswood Hall, and two farm private wells, one of which was found to be of poor quality. This supply was closed and the Town supply substituted in place.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from the mains:—

Approximately 560 with a Population of 1,800.

There are three stand pipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

It was found that the filtration and treatment was not satisfactory so an Engineer was called in to report and suggest the best method. He advised that a new and up to date plant be constructed. This is now before the Ministry of Health.

House drains that have been laid, relaid and or defective drains repaired	...	...	32
Water Closets repaired	...	...	9
New Water Closets put in.	...	...	10
Drain traps renewed	...	...	6
Sinks repaired	...	...	12
Defective Water taps repaired	...	...	28
Premises disinfected	...	...	3

Letters sent to Owners ... 72

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL

There is no change in the method of collection or disposal. The Council collect and cart the refuse to the incinerator.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council have appointed an Operator in conjunction with the New Radnor Rural District Council and he has his work well in hand.

INSPECTIONS MADE UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
1. Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	36	2	—
2. Factories not included in 1 in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
3. Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers) ...	17	64	4	—
Total	26	100	6	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness, Sec. 1.	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding, Sec. 2 ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. Sec. 3.	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventil. Sec. 4. ...	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage, Sec. 6. ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences, Sec. 7.	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Total ...	2	2	—	1	—

SECTION D. HOUSING

The position as given in my report for 1948 has been improved so far as overcrowding is concerned but there are a few places that are still overcrowded although 20 houses have been erected by the Council since the 1948 report.

During 1951 eight houses have had considerable repairs carried out to roof, floors, etc. Four are still to be completed out of the 1951 inspections. Difficulties in obtaining material and also labour have been met with, also costs are too high for a number of owners who are only able to carry out a portion of the repairs required. The Council are not yet in a position to take drastic steps with the housing problem owing to the shortage of houses.

Number of Council Houses built during the year ...	...	4
Number of houses built by private persons ...	...	6

Category of houses	1	2	3	4	5	Total
(1) Number of privately owned premises	391	56	42	—	10	499
(2) Number of Council Houses	...	57	—	—	—	57
(3) Number of derelict houses	...	—	—	—	4	4

Category 1 — Satisfactory.

.. 2 — Minor defects.

.. 3 — Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.

.. 4 — Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

.. 5 — Requiring demolition.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING YEAR:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	12
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	48
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	12

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

ICE CREAM

There are five Ice Cream Vendors in the area. The premises have been inspected regularly and no action has been necessary. Fourteen samples have been taken with the following results:—

8	Grade 1
4	Grade 2
2	Grade 3

BAKEHOUSES

There are six Bakehouses and these are regularly inspected and rarely are there any difficulties in obtaining the rectification of faults. Such defects are usually whitewashing of the premises and broken plaster.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

No slaughtering of any animals is carried out in the area. All meat is supplied from the Public Abattoir at Leominster. All the Butchers' Shops are regularly inspected, very rarely is there any fault to find.

MILK

There are no Cowsheds or Dairies within the area. Milk is brought in by the producers from the Kington Rural District. Occasional samples have been taken on delivery — Eight were taken during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

As previously stated, no slaughtering of animals for food takes place in the area and no examination of the meat is necessary as this is passed by the Slaughter House Official at Leominster. There have been a few occasions when some doubtful portions showed "Bone taint."

The following food has been condemned during the year:—

Baking flour	...	...	16 lbs.
Various tinned meats	...	...	18 tins
Vegetables	...	...	18 tins
Jam	...	...	24 tins
Salads	...	...	6 tins
Cooked Ham	...	...	337 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	11 tins
Pickles	...	...	4 tins
Tomatoes	...	...	2 tins
Milk	...	...	6 tins
Sausage Meat	...	...	30 lbs.
Fish	...	...	252 lbs.
Salmon	...	...	23 lbs.
Cured Bacon	...	...	24 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	1 tin
Juices	...	...	6 tins
Pastries	...	...	5 boxes
Mushrooms	...	...	14 tins

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE		AGE OF PATIENT														
		0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	Over 40	Unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	1	1		1	1										1
Whooping Cough	...	1	1	6	4	3	6	5	2							28
Measles	...	1			1	1		1				1		1	1	2

FOOD POISONING

No cases were reported during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No cases were reported during the year under this Act.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1951 who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1937).

Age at 31. 12. 51.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
i.e. Born in year	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1942- 1946	1937- 1941	
	1	9	17	32	36	132	132	359

These figures compared with the Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year child population indicate that 67.4% of the child population under five years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 62.1% at the end of 1950. 98.5% of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 96.9% at the end of the previous year. To sum up 87.8% of the children under 15 years of age has been immunised compared with 84.1% for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1951 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of eight males and twelve females who normally reside within the district.

During the year four new cases were notified, two on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period one death of a person suffering from Tuberculosis occurred and two left the district.

DISEASE	Males	Females	Total
1.—Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	—	—	—
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	—	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	1	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	—	1	1
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	2	—	2
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	—	1	1
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	—	2
20. Other heart disease	6	2	8
21. Other circulatory disease ...	—	1	1
22. Influenza	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	—	—	—
24. Bronchitis	1	—	1
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	2	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	—	—	—
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
All causes ...			26